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# A SOLEMN League and Covenant,

FOR  
Reformation, and Defence of Religion,  
The Honour and Happinesse of the

# K I N G,

And the Peace & Safety of the three Kingdoms  
O F

*England, Scotland, and Ireland.*

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Also, Two speciall ORDERS:

V I Z.

- I. Concerning the taking of the Solemn League and Covenant in all Churches and Chappels in *London and Westminster*.
- II. Concerning divers Lórs, Knights, Gentlemen, Colonells, Officers, Souldiers, and others, that are desirous to meet upon Friday next in the forenoon, at *Margarets-Westminster*, and to take the said League and Covenant.

With a Preamble concerning the excellent Usefulness of the said Covenant; made by a worthy Member of the house of Commons.

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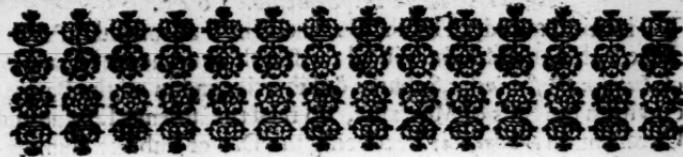
**O**Rdred by the Commons in Parliament, That this League and Orders be printed and published:

*H: Elsyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.*

London, Printed for Edward Husbands, Decem. 11. 1643.

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JANUARY 1915

*Leucostethus williamsi*



Come, let us joyn our selves to the Lord in a perpetuall Covenant that shall not be forgotten, JER. 50.5. Take away the wicked from before the King, and his Throne shalbe established in righteousness, PROV. 25.5. And all Iudah rejoiced at the Oath, for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire, and he was found of them ; and the Lord gave them rest round about, 2 CHRON. 15.15.

### The excellent Usefulness of this COVENANT.

 Nion with God, Conformity to God, and Vnity of the three Kingdoms, are things most desirable : In the first we are happy : In the second hony : In the third is strength, peace and safety. These are the kindly fruits of this Covenant, and a Covenant that brings forth these, how gladly should it be embrased, and how willingly received ? They are lovely Bands that binds us to be happy, holy, and safe. The heart of man is backsliding, and a Covenant is like a hedge or wall to stop us from going back: it being a good and ready answere to a tempter or temptation: How shall I do this, and break my Covenant ? Surely we have been too loose toward God, having almost lost a Religion, too loose in our lives, and too dis-united among our selves : and well it may be thought that a main end of this Rod which now lyes upon us, is to beat us into this Covenant; that thereby we may be knit fater to God, to holiness, and each to other by this Band of Vnity. Yet the taking, is not the chief parte of a Covenant, but the keeping. The benefits of a Covenant are then sure and stedfast to us, when we are stedfast in the Covenant : Now a main caule of unstedfastnesse in the Covenant, is forgetfulness of it. To prevent this, the Covenant is presented in this form, that being set up before us, it may be daily seen, and by seeing remembred, and by remembred performed : And withall let us remember this ; that all the wayes of God are mercy and truth to them that fear him, and keep his Covenant. But because no man is strong in his owne strength, let us seek strength of Him who is both our strength and our Redeemer, that by Him we may be enabled to keep our Covenant with him, that so he may delight to dwell with us, to be called our God, and to call us his people ; upon which happy condition, attend Peace, Prosperity, and all blessings of Heavens and Earth, temporall and eternall.

*Die Lige 25. Septemb. 1643.*

**I**t is this day ordred by the Commons now assembled in Parliament, that the Ministers in all the Parish-churches & Chappels of London, Westminster, Suburbs & Liberties, and in all the Parishes within the Bills of Mortality, do read the solemn League and Covenant on Wednesday next being the Day of Publike Humiliation; And do explaine it, and urge the ground and necessity of it, and exhort the People to the cheerefull taking of it, and that the severall Inhabitants and Parishioners of the severall and respective parishes aforesaid, and Students of the Innes of Court, do take the said League and Covenant on the Lords-Day next in the afternoone: And that notice hereof be given to my Lord Major, and his Lordship desired to give timely notice hereof to the places aforesaid: The Ministers are likewise to give notice, that the Commissioners of Scotland now here, do take it here.

*H: Elsyng, Cler: Parl: D: Com.*

*Die Mercurii, 27. Septem. 1643.*

**V**Hereas divers Lords, Knights, Gentlemen, & divers Colonells, Officers and Souldiers, and others now residing in the Cities of London and Westminster, & within the Line of Communication, are desirous to meet at S. Margarets Church at Westminster on Friday next, to take the solemn League and Covenant for Reformation, and Defence of Religion, the Honour and Happiness of the King, and the peace and Safety of the three Kingdoms, of England, Scotland, and Ireland. And whereas divers of the Scottish-nation are desirous likewise to meet at the same time and place: And divers Ministers who have no charge within the said limits, to take the said Covenant;

It is this day Ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That Mr. Coleman shall Preach on Friday next in the forenoone, to those that shall so meet, for the taking of the said Covenant: And a Parliament-Roll, with the said Covenant written thereupon, is to be prepared for every one that takes the said Covenant, to subscribe their Names: And Colonel Ling and Mr. John Brown, Members of this House, are to see their Names subscribed accordingly: And this Order is appointed to be printed and published forthwith.

*H: Els: Cler: Parl: D: Com.*

WE Noblemen, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen,  
Citizens, Burgesses, Ministers of the Gospel,  
and Commons of all sorts in the kingdoms of England,  
Scotland and Ireland, by the Providence of God li-  
ving under one King, and being of one Reformed  
Religion, having before our eyes the glory of God,  
and the advancement of the Kingdome of our Lord  
and Saviour Iesus Christ, the honour and happiness  
of the Kings Majestie, and His Posterity, and the true  
publike Liberty, Safety and Peace of the Kingdoms,  
wherein every ones pri-uate condition is included, and  
calling to minde the treacherous and bloody plots, Con-  
spiracies, Attempts, and practices of the Enemies of  
God, against the true religion, and professors thereof in  
all places, especially in these three Kingdoms ever  
since the reformation of religion, and how much their  
rage, power and presumption, are of late, and at this  
time increased and exercised; whereof the deplorable  
estate of the Church and Kingdom of Ireland, the dis-  
tressed estate of the Church & Kingdom of England,  
and dangerous estate of the Church and Kingdom of  
Scotland, are present and publike Testimonies; We  
have now at last, (after other meanes of Supplication,  
Remonstrance, Protestations, and Sufferings) for the  
preservation of our selves and our religion, from utter  
ruine and Destruction, according to the commendable  
practice

practice of these Kingdoms in former times, and the Example of Gods people in other Nations; after mature deliberation, resolved and determined to enter into a mu-tuall and solemne League and Covenant, wherein we all subscribe, and each one of us for himself, with our hands lifted up to the most high God, do swear:

I. That we shall sincerely, really and constantly, through the Grace of God, endeavour in our severall places and callings, the preservation of the Reformed religion in the Church of Scotland, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government, against our comon Enemies, the Reformation of Religion in the Kingdoms of England and Ireland, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and governement, according to the word of God, and the Example of the best Reformed Churches; And shall indeavour to bring the Churches of God in the three Kingdomes, to the nearest conjunction and Uniformity in Religion, Confession of Faith, Form of Church-government, Directory for Worship and Catechizing; That we and our Posterity after us, may as Brethren, live in Faith and Love, and the Lord may delight to dwell in the middest of us.

II. That we shall in like manner, without respect of persons, indeavour the extirpation of Popery, Prelacy, that is, Church-government, by Arch-Bishops, Bishops, their Chancellours, Commissaries, Deanes, Deanes and Chapteers, Archdeacons, and all other Ecclesiastical Officers depending on that Hierarchy, Superstition, Heretic, Schisme, Prophanenesse, and whatsoever shall be found to be contrary to sound Doctrine, and the power of Godlinesse; lest we partake in other mens sins, and thereby be in danger to receive of their plagues, and that the Lord may be one, and his Name one in the three Kingdoms.

III. We shall with the same sincerity, reality and constancy, in our severall Vocations, endeavour with our estates and lives

lives, mutually to preserve the Rights and Priviledges of the Parliaments, and Liberties of the Kingdome, and to preserve and defend the Kings Majesties person and authority, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion, and Liberties of the Kingdome, that the world may bear witnesse with our consciences of our Loyaltie, and that we have no thoughts or intentions to diminish His Majesties just power and greatnessse.

IV. We shall also with all faithfullnesse endeavour the discovery of all such as have been, or shall be Incendiaries, Malignants, or evill Instruments, by hindering the Reformation of Religion, dividing the King from his people, or one of the Kingdomes from another, or making any Faction or parties amongst the people, contrary to this League and Covenant, that they may be brought to publicke triall, and receive condigne punishment, as the degree of their offences shall require or deserve, or the supream Judicatories of both Kingdome respectively, or others having power from them for that effect, shall judge convenient.

V. And whereas the happiness of a blessed Peace between these Kingdome, denied in former times to our Progenitors, is by the good Providence of God granted unto us, and hath been lately concluded, and settled by both Parliaments, we shall each one of us, according to our place and interest, indeavour that they may remain conjoyed in a firme Peace and Union to all posterity; And that Justice may be done upon the wilfull Opposers thereof, in manner expressed in the precedent Article.

VI. We shall also according to our places and callings in this common cause of Religion, Liberty and Peace of the Kingdome, assist and defend all those that enter into this League and Covenant, in the maintaining and pursuing thereof, and shall not suffer our selves directly or indirectly by whatsoever combination, perswasion or terrorre, to be divided, and withdrawn from this blessed Union and conjunction, whether to make defection to the contrary part, or to give our selves to a detestable indifferency or neutrality in this cause, which so much concerneth the glory of God, the good of the Kingdome, and honour of the King;

King ; but shall all the dayes of our lives, zealously and constantly continue therein, against all opposition, and promote the same according to our power, against all Lets and Impediments whatsoever; and what we are not able our selves to supprese or overcome, we shall reveale and make known, that it may be timely prevented or removed ; All which we shall do as in the sight of God.

- And because these Kingdoms are guilty of many sins and provocations against God, and his Son Iesus Christ, as is too manifest by our present distresses and dangers, the fruits thereof ; We profess, and declare before God and the world, our unfayned desire to be humbled for our own sins, and for the sins of these Kingdoms, especially, that we have not as we ought, valued the inestimable benefit of the Gospel, that we have not laboured for the purity and power thereof, and that we have not endeavonred to receive Christ in our hearts, nor to walk worthy of him in our lives, which are the causes of other sins and Transgressions, so much abounding amongst us ; And our true and unfayned purpose, desire, and endeavour for our selves, and all others under our power and charge, both in publike and in private, in all duties we owe to God and man, to amend our lives, and each one to go before another, in the example of a reall Reformation, that the Lord may turne away his wrath, and heavy indignation, and establish these Churches and Kingdoms in truth and peace. And this Covenant we make in the presence of almighty God, the Searcher of all hearts, with a true intention to performe the same, as we shall answer at that great day, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed. Most humbly beseeching the Lord to strengthen us by his Holy Spirit for this end, and to blesse our desires and proceedings with such successe, as may be deliverance and safety to his people, and encouragement to other christian Churches groaning under, or in danger of the yoake of Anti-christian Tyranny ; to joyn, in the same, or like Association and Covenant, to the glory of God, the enlargement of the Kingdom of Iesus Christ, & the peace and Tranquillity of Christian Kingdoms and Common-wealtheſ.

FINIS.

